

### Optional Goal: Social Media in Education

**Overview:** Most everyone is familiar with social media sites, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest, PlayStation Network, and so on. Most teenagers use social media every day—from their computers, their smartphones, their gaming consoles, their e-readers, and their iPods.

The questions you will answer in this Optional Goal are:

- Which social media sites are best? What makes them “best”? (is “best” the same as “most popular”?)
- How could schools use social media to help students learn?

You will also put together a presentation using Prezi to explain your findings.

### Requirements:

This is primarily a research project. You will thoroughly investigate the two questions above (the steps below give you more clues, though you may find that more questions pop up as you go along—feel free to investigate those!). In the end, you will create a Prezi which:

- Defines social media and compares several social media sites
- Discusses how social media could be used in education
- Discusses whether or not you think it’s a good idea to use social media in education (and tells the advantages and disadvantages)
- Uses embedded video at least once in your presentation
- Adds voiceovers, so that you can explain your frames to your audience (don’t read to us! Keep the contents of the frame short and simple!
- Keeps in mind the elements and principles of design
- Includes MLA-formatted citations for all non-original material

### Steps:

1. Do some investigating. Find out:
  - a. What is social media, exactly? (Internet research...pick good sources and keep track of what you found out where for your Works Cited page.)
  - b. Which social media sites are most popular with teenagers? (You might want to do your own poll of students in your classes to find out how many students use social media, and which sites. What other questions could you ask?)
  - c. What makes a social media site “good”? How can you compare them? Come up with a list of at least 6 criteria, and compare some of the most popular sites.
  - d. Is social media being used for teaching and learning already? Where? How?
2. Be creative. Think about the social media sites you use, and examine a couple of new ones. How could they be used to teach subjects like Social Studies, English, and Science? Could they be used *in addition to* a regular classroom, or would they make the classroom unnecessary?
3. Think about how YOU learn. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of learning through social media sites, or classroom learning PLUS social media sites. How would this sort of learning help you? What problems do you predict? How could these problems be solved?

4. Put together a Prezi ([www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)) explaining what you have found. Be sure that you answer the two questions from the Overview and that you meet the Requirements. You will want to watch some of the “how to create a Prezi” tutorial files.

**Done?**

When your Social Media Optional Goal is completed, be sure to complete the Reflections Piece and post both of them in your e-portfolio. Let me know (via the form on the wiki), so that I can go take a look and assess your project.

Please note that there is no minimum or maximum length for this project. While the questions I’ve given you are meant to start you off in the right direction, you may find the topic interesting and do a lot of research—that’s OK...tell us about ALL your findings! Just remember to keep track of your sources for all material.